



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH and SOCIAL SERVICES
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GUAM PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY GUIDELINES

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTING SPECIMENS FOR H7N9

Methodology:	Human Influenza Virus Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostics
Performed at Hawaii State Laboratory:	<p>Note: Testing with the CDC Human Influenza Virus Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostics Panel Influenza A/H7 should not be performed unless the patient meets clinical and epidemiologic criteria for testing suspect specimens (www.cdc.gov/avianflu/h7n9-case-definitions.htm)</p> <p>Criteria for Referral of Specimens for Testing:</p> <p>A patient who has had recent contact (within 10 days of illness onset) with <i>a confirmed or probable</i> case of infection with novel influenza A (H7N9) virus.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A patient who has had recent travel (within 10 days of illness onset) to a country where human cases of novel influenza A (H7N9) virus have recently been detected (China or Taiwan) or where novel influenza A (H7N9) viruses are known to be circulating in animals.</p> <p>Symptoms associated with H7N9 infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High fever and cough• Pneumonia• Acute respiratory distress syndrome• Septic shock
For private clinics and providers:	<p>Specimen Submission Guidelines</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Submit one sample in M4 media (M4 media will be provided by PH upon request). Refer to Specimen Collection instructions below for acceptable specimens.2. Fill out required form COMPLETELY (GPHL Influenza Submission Form) Send form with the specimen.3. Deliver specimens to the laboratory immediately. Otherwise, store specimen at 2-8°C for 8 hours. If more than 8 hours, freeze specimens.4. Send specimens to Guam Public Health laboratory Mondays-Fridays 8AM-

	430PM.
Specimen Required:	<p>Preferred respiratory specimens:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nasal swabs 2. Nasopharyngeal swabs / aspirates 3. Nasal wash / aspirates
Specimen Collection:	<p>Use only swabs provided in the M4 collection kit. No substitution of swabs.</p> <p>For Nasal Sample – To collect a nasal swab sample insert the sterile swab into the nostril that presents the most secretion under visual inspection. Using gentle rotation, push the swab until resistance is met at the level of the turbinates (less than one inch into the nostril). Rotate the swab a few times against the nasal wall.</p> <p>For Nasopharyngeal Sample – To collect a nasopharyngeal swab sample, insert the sterile swab into the nostril that presents the most secretion under visual inspection. Keep the swab near the septum floor of the nose while gently pushing the swab into the posterior nasopharynx. Rotate the swab several times.</p> <p>For Nasal Wash or Aspirate Sample –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Older Children and Adults : With the patient's head hyper-extended instill about 2.5 ml of sterile normal saline into one nostril with a syringe. To collect the wash, place a clean, dry specimen container directly under the nose with slight pressure on the upper lip. Tilt the head forward and allow the fluid to run out of the nostril into the specimen container. Repeat for the other nostril and collect the fluid into the same specimen container. • For Younger Children: The child should sit in the parent's lap facing forward with the child's back against the parent's chest. The parent should wrap one arm around the child in a manner that will restrain the child's body and arms Fill an aspiration bulb or bulb syringe with up to 2.5 ml of sterile normal saline (depending on the size of the child), and instill the saline into one nostril while the head is tilted back. Release the pressure on the bulb to aspirate the specimen back into the bulb. Transfer the specimen into a clean, dry specimen container. Repeat the process for the child's other nostril and transfer the specimen into the same specimen container. <p>Label each specimen with a unique identifier, type of specimen and date of collection.</p> <p>Place Swabs in biohazard specimen transport bags , seal and deliver to the laboratory. Place Submission form in outside pouch when sending to GPH laboratory.</p>
Specimen Transport, Storage and Stability	<p>Deliver specimens to the laboratory immediately with an ice pack. If more than 8 hours, store and transport specimens in frozen state. Do not freeze-thaw.</p>

Specimen Submission	<p>The submitting facility must notify BT Technologist or alternate of GPLH at (671) 735-7153/158/355</p> <p>NOTE: It is the responsibility of the submitter to track the arrival of the specimens along with the Influenza Specimen Laboratory Submission form at GPLH to ensure that these specimens are received by the Laboratory staff.</p>
Rejection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thawed specimens. • Specimen quantity is insufficient to perform the test; • Specimen received in a container that is leaking. • Specimen is not collected in a M4 media or special handling instruction is not followed; • Transport media is expired; • Swab with calcium alginate , wooden shafts, cotton- tipped; • Specimen subjected to repeated freeze-thaw cycle. • Unlabelled specimens; • Illegible/ incomplete Submission forms (e.g., no date of onset, travel history, etc.) • Specimen label does not match the Submission form.
Submission Form	<p>Influenza Specimen Laboratory Submission Form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each specimen submitted must have a completed Submission Form, with the patient name, patient identification number, type of specimen, date/time of collection, submitter, date of onset, travel history, date shipped/sent to GPLH, test(s) requested and other pertinent information • Illegible submission forms that are not consistent with the specimen submitted will be rejected and requesting facility will be asked to re-submit. • Submission forms must not be in direct contact with the specimen(s). • Fill out required form(s) COMPLETELY. • Incomplete forms will be rejected.
Result Notification:	<p>GPLH will send specimens to Hawaii State Laboratory for testing. Laboratory reports will be forwarded to the submitting facility, territory epidemiologist, and the BCDC Administrator via FAX.</p> <p>Any other request for copies of laboratory reports, apart from that stipulated above will not be accepted.</p>
Contact:	<p>Alan Mallari, Microbiologist II, GPLH (671) 735-7158/355 alanjohn.mallari@dphss.guam.gov</p> <p>Joy S. Villanueva, Chemical Terrorism Medical Technologist 1, GPLH(Alternate) (671) 735-7153 (671) 735-7158 FAX joy.villanueva@dphss.guam.gov</p>

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References:

1. CDC Interim Guidance on Case Definitions to be Used for Novel Influenza A (H7N9) Case Investigations in the United States, 4/26/2013
2. CDC's H7N9: Frequently Asked Questions
3. CDC Health Alert Network: Interim Recommendations for Clinicians and State and Local Health Departments, 4/10/2013